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Identical letters dated 22 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 18 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the evil aggression committed by United States and British aircraft against civilian installations in the south of Iraq on 13 May 2000, in which nine civilian citizens, including a three-year-old child, were wounded. The letter also affirms the established right of Iraq to defend the inviolability of its territory and seek compensation for the damage caused by this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-44631 (E) 250500 250500

Annex to the identical letters dated 22 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that nine Iraqi civilian citizens were wounded during the recent evil aggression mounted on the southern area of Iraq by United States and British aircraft on 13 May 2000. The details of this new criminal act are given hereunder.

At 2030 hours on 13 May 2000, 10 formations of United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft flew 22 armed sorties, comprising 8 sorties from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 sorties from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. These aircraft overflew areas of the Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Muthannah, Qadisiyah and Najaf governorates and attacked civilian and service-related installations. Nine civilian citizens were wounded in the shelling, including a three-year-old child, Ali Abdul Husayn. The total number of sorties flown from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory by the United States and the United Kingdom since their major aggression of 17 December 1998 is thus 17,163.

The ongoing aggression of the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraq has come to constitute a fixed policy for the achievement of their political objectives aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. By the most elementary standards governing international intercourse, the declared policy of the leaders of the two countries in question constitutes flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions affirming that the use or threat of use of force against the integrity or independence of any State must be rejected.

Viewing the Governments of the countries in question as bearing full international responsibility for these criminal and provocative acts and for their consequences and the damage caused by them, the Government of Iraq reserves in full its inalienable right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the security of its people, as well as its right to seek compensation for all the losses it has sustained in human, material and moral terms owing to these same acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

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Identical letters dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 May 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the attacks carried out on 15 and 17 May 2000 by United States and British aircraft against civilian installations in the north and south of Iraq, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. One child died as a result of the attacks, and 10 civilians were injured. Large numbers of cattle were also killed or injured.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-44624 (E) 250500 250500

Annex to the identical letters dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 18 May 2000, I have the honour to inform you that United States and British aircraft carry out savage criminal acts on a daily basis, in addition to the series of crimes which they perpetrate against innocent civilians. They have carried out attacks on civilian installations in the north and south of Iraq which led to the death of one 13-year-old child and the injury of 10 civilian citizens, four of whom were sheep and cattle herders. Farms were set ablaze, and large numbers of cattle were killed or injured. Even animals do not escape these treacherous attacks. Details of this most recent criminal act are set forth below:

1. At 1820 hours on 15 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory flew 16 armed sorties with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace. The aircraft overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Irbil areas. They attacked service-related and civilian installations in part of Ninawa Governorate, causing the injury of two civilian citizens and extensive material damage.

2. At 2230 hours on 15 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory flew 26 armed sorties. Twenty sorties were from Saudi airspace, supported by one AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and six were from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Dhi Qar, Kut, Diwaniyah, Basra, Qadisiyah and Muthanna areas. They attacked service-related and civilian installations in Kut and Muthanna Governorates, injuring four civilian citizens, one of whom was a child, and causing extensive material damage to the installations.

3. At 1036 hours on 17 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft flew 18 armed sorties. Twelve sorties were from Saudi airspace, supported by one AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and six were from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew areas in Basra, Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Qadisiyah and Najaf Governorates. They attacked an agricultural area in Mashkhab district, Muthanna Governorate, killing one 13-year-old child and injuring four sheep and cattle herders. Farms were set ablaze, agricultural crops destroyed and large numbers of livestock killed.

This brings to 21,211 the total number of armed aerial sorties flown by United States and British aircraft operating from bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey since their iniquitous onslaught of 17 December 1998.

The ongoing aggression of the United States and United Kingdom against steadfast Iraq has become a fixed policy for the achievement of the political objectives stated by the respective leaders of those two countries. By the most basic standards governing international intercourse, such aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law

and the prevailing international conventions, all of which affirm that the threat or use of force against the integrity or independence of any State must be rejected.

Viewing the Governments of the countries in question as bearing full international responsibility for these criminal and provocative acts and for their consequences and the damage caused by them, the Government of Iraq reserves in full its inalienable right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the security of its people, as well as its right to seek compensation for all the losses it has sustained in human, material and moral terms owing to these same acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

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Letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 May 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the large-scale military action launched by the Turkish armed forces against northern Iraq on 8 May 2000, and he urges the United Nations to meet its responsibility, as stipulated in the Charter, to prevent aggression and intimidation of the kind to which Iraq is being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-44584 (E) 240500 240500

Annex to the letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to the letter dated 26 April 1999 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq (S/2000/353, annex), I should like to call your attention to the fact that on 8 May 2000 some 5,000 members of the Turkish armed forces supported by fighter aircraft and helicopters carried out a fresh military action in the Kani Masi sector in northern Iraq. This act of aggression resulted in serious losses, in terms of lives and property, to Iraqi citizens belonging to our Kurdish people in the area, to say nothing of the damage done to public property.

This act of aggression by Turkey is the latest in a series of recurring attacks by its forces against Iraq's territory, and it coincides with the hostile military actions being perpetrated against the country on a daily basis by the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

The ongoing series of hostile operations and the flagrant violations of Iraq's territory and airspace that are being committed by the Turkish armed forces only confirm Iraq's repeated warnings against the consequences of the duplicitous policy being pursued by Turkey vis-à-vis the anomalous situation in northern Iraq and against its participation in perpetuating that situation for the implementation of the United States and British scheme to use its territory as a base from which to maintain the so-called no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq and prevent the restoration of legitimate authority there.

In condemning the renewed Turkish aggression against Iraqi territory in the strongest terms, the Government of Iraq calls upon the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading forces from Iraqi territory. It reserves in full its right to determine a time and a place to respond to this bellicose act, and it affirms the right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure that Turkey bears full international responsibility for the consequences of its recurring aggression, its violations of Iraq's sovereignty and its exposure of Iraq's security and territorial integrity to the gravest risks.

As I express the hope that the United Nations will fulfil its responsibilities as stipulated in the Charter and will halt the constant intimidation and aggression to which my country is being subjected, I ask you to do your utmost to urge the Turkish Government to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by withdrawing its armed forces from Iraq's territory forthwith.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs